

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13914 091250Z

61-S
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-10 SAJ-01 L-02 SP-02

PRS-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /046 W
----- 054789

R 091125Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7362
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
USMISSION GENEV
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T ROME 13914

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMENTS ON CSCE AND MBFR LINKAGE

REFS: A. STATE 213648; B. STATE 214661; C. USNATO 5474;
D. USNATO 5399

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SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 13914 091250Z

1. CHARGE HAD LUNCH WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DUCCI OCTOBER 8,

DURING WHICH THE QUESTION OF NATO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE
LINKAGE OF CSCE AND MBFR WAS TOUCHED ON. DUCCI EXPRESSED
SURPRISE THAT THE MATTER WAS HELD OVER IN THE SPC UNTIL
OCTOBER 18 AS HE ASSUMED THE SECRETARY WANTED ALLIED VIEWS
BEFORE HE WENT TO MOSCOW, WHEN HE MIGHT PROBE THE SOVIETS ON
THIS MATTER.

2. DUCCI REMARKED THAT GROMYKO HAD SPOKEN TO MORO ALONG THE
LINES SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD TAKEN WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER
(SEE REFTEL A). REPORTEDLY GROMYKO TOOK HARD LINES ON BASKET
III, THE LANGUAGE CONCERNING PEACEFUL CHANGE AND INVOLABILITY OF
FRONTIERS, AND CBM'S. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, PUSH FOR A
CONCLUSION AT THE SUMMIT NOR DID HE URGE PARTICULAR SPEED.
DUCCI NOTED THAT A LINKAGE BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE
IN STARTING THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS MIGHT WORK NOW
TO SPUR PROGRESS ON MBFR. DUCCI REMARKED THAT THE ITALIANS
ARE STILL NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MBFR BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD INTERPOSE OBJECTIONS TO THE LINKAGE
CONCEPT.

3. DUCCI WENT ON TO LIST SOME OF THE GOM'S CONCERNS ABOUT
MBFR. HE PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOME TENDENCY
IN WAHINGTON TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A SINGLE PHASE WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE NOT ONLY A REDUCTION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES BUT WOULD
INVOLVE EUROPEAN FORCES AS WELL. THE ITALIANS HAVE A NUMBER
OF PROBLEMS WITH THE REDUCTION OF EUROPEAN FORCES AND THEREFORE
ARE STRONG BELIEVRS THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO PHASES TO MBFR
AND THAT THE REDUCTION IN EUROPEAN FORCES BE DELAYED. IN THE
FIRST INSTANCE, IF GERMAN, BRITISH, DUTCH, BELGIAN FORCES ARE
REDUCED, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DEVELOP PRESSURES IN ITALY TO
REDUCE ITS MILITARY FORCES EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD NOT BE COVERED
BY THE AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD APPEAL TO THE ECONOMIZERS AND
LEFTISTS WHO OBJECT TO MILITARY SPENDING GENERALLY.

4. THE SECOND POINT RAISED CONCERNED THE FACT THAT WHEN EUROPEANS
REDUCE THEIR MILITARY FORCES THEY ARE NOT MERELY WITHDRAWN FROM
THE AREA (AS IN THE CASE OF THE US OR USSR) BUT ARE IN FACT DIS-
BANDED. HE EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF
A NET REDUCTION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN MILITARY CAPABILITY AT THIS
TIME OR FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FINALLY, DUCCI SAID THAT HE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 13914 091250Z

TERMED A "DEFENSE EUROPEENE" WITHIN NATO AND THUS HE BELIEVED
IT UNWISE THAT THE EUROPEANS BE RESTRICTED UNDER A FORMAL
AGREEMENT IN MAINTAINING THEIR MILITARY FORCES AT VARIOUS
LEVELS. DUCCI ADMITTED THAT SUCH A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE WOULD
REQUIRE A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION PRIOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT
AND THIS LOOKED RATHER REMOTE AS A POSSIBILITY. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, ALLIANCE, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME13914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0222
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741060/aaaabyvc.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. STATE 213648; B. STATE 214661; C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN COMMENTS ON CSCE AND MBFR LINKAGE
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, IT, NATO, CSCE, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005